Preservation of fruits and vegetables

4. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that fruits and vegetables are preserved in the cold storage for maintaining the freshness by using medicines;

(b) if so, whether Government have made any survey of these cold storage and found any contaminations;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the steps taken by Government to maintain quality of food and vegetables; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (e) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries under Insfrastructure Development Scheme provide assistance in the form of grant in aid upto 25% of the cost of plant and machinery and technical civil works in general areas and 33.33% in difficult areas with a common ceiling of Rs. 75 lakhs for Cold Storages for non-horticulture produce and special type of cold storage with controlled atmosphere/modified atmosphere facility. Besides cold storages which are an integral part of processing units or part of common facilities in Food Parks are also assisted. The Ministry does not set up projects on its own and assistance is considered under plan schemes on the basis of viabla proposals received. The Ministry does not a carry out survey of cold storages and usage of medicines in cold storages has not come to its notice.

Government of India has promulgated Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 to lay down science based standards and to regulate/monitor the quality and safety of food products. Presently, the Ministry administers the Fruit Products Order (FPO 1955) under which preserved fruits and vegetables specified in the order are regulated with regard to their quality. Under its plan schemes, the Ministry also provide financial assistance for promoting adoption of food safety and quality assurance mechanisms such as Total Quality Management (TQM) including ISO-9000, IS0 14000, Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP), Good Manufacturing

Practices (GMP), Good Hygienic Practices (GHP) etc. by the food processing industries. Setting up/upgradation of Quality Control Laboratories are also assisted *inter alia* to ensure compliance with National food Standards.

Import of processed food items

5. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that import of processed food items is adversely affecting indigenous food processing industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of those Indian companies which are using brand name of foreign companies for their processed food Items; and

(d) the action taken, if any, against such companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (d) Import of processed principal commodities (processed vegetables, processed fruits and juices and miscellaneous processed items) was Rs. 664.24 crore for 2003-04, which increased to Rs. 673.84 crores in 2004-05 and Rs. 765.12 crores in the year 2005-06 (April - February). The share of agricultural import of the total national import during 2005-06 was 3.33%. The corresponding export ratio of agricultural export to the total national export was 10.95%. Indian exports of agricultural products have shown growth. The export and import of agricultural products durign the last three years is as follows:

Value (Rs. in crores)

Year	Export	Import
2003-04	37267	21973
2004-05	41603	22812
2005-06	49803	21035

The above data shows that the import of processed food items constitute a small part of estimated domestic market of value added processed food of Rs. 1,80 000 crores out of overall food market of